Message Text

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R 241646Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4885 INFO USMISSION GENEVA AMEMBASSY DAKAR

CONFIDENTIAL MONROVIA 3658

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ILO, PORG, LI SUBJECT: ILO

REFS: A. STATE 117302; B. STATE 118350, C. MONROVIA 3472 (NOTAL)

- 1. THE ACTING DCM MAY 24 MADE THE REQUESTED PRESENTATION (REFTEL A) TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT, DELIVERING AT THE SAME TIME THE LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR CARTER (REFTLE B). TOLBERT REPLIED THAT HE SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLE OF AVOIDING CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ILO, AND NOTED THAT THERE ARE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THESE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED. TOLBERT TURNED TO LABOR MINISTER PEAL AND ASKED FOR HIS OPINION. PEAL COMMENTED IN MUCH THE SAME VEIN THAT HE HAD USED EARLIER IN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS (REFTEL C), REFERRING TO THE DIFFICULTY OF SEPARATING POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL MATTERS IN SOME ISSUES.
- 2. THE PRESIDENT REPEATED HIS BELIEF THAT MEANS SHOULD BE FOUND TO SEPARATE CONTENTIOUS POLICTICAL ISSUES FROM TECHNICAL MATTERS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT BEFORE HIS OWN DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE, HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA POLICIES AT THE COMING ILC AGAIN WITH PEAL. TOLBERT SAID THAT THE GOVT. OF LIBERIA IN DETERMINING ITS POLICIES WOULD BE GUDED BY WHAT IS BEST FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ILO. THE ACTING DCM ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE U.S. WILL SUPPORT THE CANDIDACY OF JOSEPH MORRIS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BOARD. THE PRESIDENT COMMENTED THAT IT APPEARED THE GOL HAD HAD SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH MR. MORRIS AND ASKED PEAL TO COMMENT. PEAL STATED THAT MORRIS HAD BEEN UNFRIENDLY TO LIBERIA AT IMCO MEETINGS WHERE HE HAD STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE LIBERIAN FLAG OF CONVENIENCE. ACCORDING TO PEAL, MORRIS IN EFFECT HAD ACCUSED

LIBERIA OF TOLERATING "SLAVE LABOR" ON THE VESSELS FLYING THE LIBERIAN FLAG.

3. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT TOLBERT MADE THE COMMITMENT TO PUT THE IN TERESTS OF

THE ILO ITSELF FIRST IN DETERMINING GOL POLICY GIVES REASON TO BE HOPEFUL THAT THE GOL POSITION AT GENEVA WILL BE CLOSER TO OURS THAN IT HAS BEEN HERETOFORE. WE NOTE THAT PEAL'S UNFAVORABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CANDIDACY OF MORRIS CONTRASTS WITH THE SUPPORT GIVEN MORRIS BY ISMAEL SHERIF, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED WORKERS CONGRESS AND WORKERS' DELEGATE TO THE ILC (REFTEL C). SADLER

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